

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-10. (Canceled).

11. (New) A process for the preparation of a metal-organic compound, comprising at least one imine ligand according to formula 1, wherein the imine ligand is contacted with a metal-organic reagent of formula 2 in the presence of at least 1 equivalent of an inorganic or metal-organic base, or wherein an HA adduct of the imine ligand is contacted with a metal-organic reagent of formula 2 in the presence of at least 2 equivalents of an inorganic or metal-organic base, wherein formula 1 is:

Y=N-R

wherein Y is selected from a substituted carbon, nitrogen, or phosphorous atom and R represents a proton, a protic or an aprotic substituent, and formula 2 is:

M^V(L₁)_k(L₂)_l(L₃)_m(L₄)_nX

wherein:

M represents a group 4 or group 5 metal ion,

V represents the valency of the metal ion, which is 3, 4 or 5,

L₁, L₂, L₃, and L₄ represent ligands on M which may be the same or different,

X represents a group 17-halogen atom,

k, l, m, n = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 with k+l+m+n+1=V, and

wherein HA represents an acid, of which H represents its proton and A its conjugated base.

12. (New) A process according to claim 11 wherein R represents a hydrogen atom and wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) a phosphorus substituent defined by the formula:



wherein each R^{1j} , with $j = 1-3$, is independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_{1-8} alkoxy radical, a C_{6-10} aryl or aryloxy radical, an amido radical, or a C_{1-20} hydrocarbyl radical unsubstituted or substituted by a halogen atom, a C_{1-8} alkoxy radical, a C_{6-10} aryl or aryloxy radical, or an amido radical,

or a silyl radical of the formula:



or a germanyl radical of the formula:



wherein R^{2j} is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a C_{1-8} alkyl or alkoxy radical or a C_{6-10} aryl or aryloxy radical,

each substituent R^{1j} or R^{2j} may be linked with another R^1 or R^2 to form a ring system, or

(ii) a substituent defined by formula 6:



wherein each of Sub^1 and Sub^2 is independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrocarbyl radical having from 1 to 30 carbon atoms; a silyl radical, a substituted or unsubstituted amido radical and a substituted or unsubstituted phosphido radical, and wherein Sub^1 and Sub^2 may be linked with each other to form a ring system.

13. (New) A process according to claim 11, wherein the base is a carboxylate, a fluoride, a hydroxide, a cyanide, an amide, a carbonate of Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs, or an ammonium salt, or a group 2 metal salt chosen from Mg, Ca, or Ba or an alkali metal chosen from Li, Na, K, Rb, or Cs of a phosphate or a phosphate ester, and their aryl and alkyl compounds, or alkoxide and phenoxides of Li, Na, K, Rb or Cs, or thallium hydroxide, alkylammonium hydroxide or a fluoride, or a hydrocarbanion of any of the group 1, group 2, group 12 or group 13 elements, or an alkali metal, group 1 hydride or group 2 hydride.

14. (New) A process according to claim 13, wherein the inorganic base is selected from sodium hydride, or calciumhydride.

15. (New) A process according to claim 11, wherein the metal-organic base is selected from an organolithium compound, or an organomagnesium compound.

16. (New) A process according to claim 11, wherein the reaction is carried out in an aprotic solvent.

17. (New) A process according claim 11, wherein the process is carried out in the presence of a phase transfer reagent.

18. (New) A process for the preparation of a polyolefin by preparing a metal-organic compound according to the process of claim 11, wherein the base is an olefin polymerization-compatible base, wherein the metal-organic compound is activated anywhere in, or before a polymerization reactor.

19. (New) A process according to claim 18, wherein the metal-organic compound is used without purification.

20. (New) A process according to claim 18, wherein the metal-organic compound is formed in the polymerization reactor.